

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, claims 38-43 have been added. Claim 38 combines claim 24 and allowable claim 29. Claims 39-43 correspond to claims 25-28 and 30, respectively, and depend from claim 38.

Claim 24 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 26. Claim 26 has been canceled, accordingly.

Claim 12 has previously been canceled.

No new matter has been added. This Amendment merely cancels one claim (claim 26), incorporates the allowable subject matter (claims 26 and 29) into the rejected claims, and adds new claims of combined subject matter. Applicants respectfully submit that the Amendment places all the claims in condition for allowance. No new search or further examination on the part of the Examiner is required. Entry of the Amendment after final is respectfully submitted to be proper. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-11, 13-25 and 27-43 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 1-23 and 31-37 are allowed. See the Advisory Action dated February 23, 2005.

I. Response to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

In paragraph No. 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4-14, 24, 25, 27, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Allen et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,610,456). Further, in Paragraph No. 3 of the Action, claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Allen et al. Still further, in Paragraph No.

4 of the Action, claims 3, 26 and 29 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim.

In the Advisory Action dated February 23, 2005, the Examiner states that the rejections of claims 1-16 based on Allen et al have been overcome in view of Applicants' Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 filed along with Mr. Mizuyoshi's Declaration on February 2, 2005.

Applicants respectfully submit that present claims 24, 25, 27, 28, 30 and new claims 38-43 are novel and patentable over Allen et al. Specifically, Applicants have in the Amendment amended claim 24, from which claims 25, 27, 28 and 30 depend, to incorporate the subject matter of claim 26, which is not included in the rejections. Additionally, Applicants have added claim 38, from which claims 39-43 depend, to combine the subject matter of claim 24 and claim 29, which is also not included in the rejections. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections and the objection.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No.: 10/099,981

Attorney Docket Q69083

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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